(b) whether the former Civil Aviation Secretary and member of Naresh Chandra Committee has drawn up an action plan to decongest the skies by at least 20-30 per cent at both airports; and

(c) if so, how many recommendations of the Committee has been implemented or are under implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Roy Paul Committee on "Air Traffic Management Capacity" has recommended Action Plan, which *inter alia* include shifting of Indian Airforce (IAF) operations out of Palm to Hindon.

(b) The Roy Paul Committee has made certian suggestions to decongest the air traffic and enhance the air traffic capacity at both airports.

(c) The recommendations have been categories into short, medium and long term measures. Short term measures have been implemented. Out of eight medium term measures five implemented and three are under implementation. Most of long-term measures are under implementation.

Private airlines in international services

578. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the criteria of allowing certain private airliners to operate international flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): As per the existing guidelines, all the Scheduled Indian carriers having continuous operations of at least 5 years in the domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft are eligible to operate on international routes.

Improvement of air services in Sikkim

579. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA :Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special scheme has been chalked out by Government to improve the air service in the North Eastern Region particularly in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent or likely to be spent by Government for implementation of the said scheme?